

CHAPTER XV

SELECTION OF READYMADE GARMENTS

15. Introduction:

The garments we wear reflect our personality. A well dressed person can easily impress others. When you visit your friend's house wearing a beautiful pair of garments, obviously everyone will ask you about your garments. Do you know one day when Jumi visited her friend Gita's house, wearing a beautiful dress she was appreciated by everyone present there. She was also puzzled by various queries like where from she had purchased her dress, what was the price and how she looked like and many other questions. Now, what do we understand from this? The garments which Jumi was wearing enhanced her beauty and personality and reflected her taste, thus attracting others. Therefore, we should consider many aspects while selecting our garments.

Garments are made in many ways. Many people purchase clothes of their choice and make garments at home. For this one must have the knowledge of techniques of making garments. In the modern life-style of busy schedule many of us don't have time to spare although have the knowledge of making garments. Therefore, the demand for readymade

and tailored garments are gradually increasing. There are advantages and disadvantages in each method of making garments. We should consider many aspects while selecting any type of garments. We already had some ideas about the factors to be considered while selecting garments like personality, age, climate, body structure etc. in our previous lesson. The garments of one person reflects his character, taste, personality neatness etc. Therefore we should have an appropriate plan before selecting our garments. The economical status plays a role on the standard and price of the garments. Because on an average ten percent of the income should be spent on clothings. Therefore, you should also consider all these aspects and make a plan before you purchase garments for yourself and for your family members.

After reading this chapter you will be able to know the following points for selection of garments—

- Needs and methods of taking body measurements.
- Qualities of garments and good workmanship

- Various designs, seams, plackets, pleats, buttons etc. used in garments.

15.1 (i) Needs of taking Body Measurement :

When we go to market to buy our garments, first of all we examine their measurements. After examining the length of the garment, measurements of hand, chest, waist etc. we select the garment having accurate measurements that will suit our body. Therefore, before we go for stitching or purchasing readymade garments we should have adequate knowledge of taking body measurements. If we don't have the accurate measurements, selection of clothes become difficult, on the otherhand adequate knowledge of measurement makes the selection easier. When we stitch our garments at home or go to tailors shop, measurements must be taken as accurately as possible so that the garments are well fitted.

Points to be considered while taking body measurements

- a) We should stand straight while giving measurements and should always be taken by a second person so as to record accurate measurements.
- b) While taking measurements, loose clothings should be removed and should be in a body fitting foundation garments.
- c) The round measurements should

not be taken too tight or too loose.

d) The measurement of length of the garment should taken by keeping the measuring tape parallel to the spinal cord.

e) Body measurements should be taken according to the style of the garment. The style of garment are changing with the change of fashion. Therefore one should clearly ask from the person, the style of garment he or she is desiring to have.

f) The measurement should be started from the right place and also ended at the right point.

ii. Methods of taking Body measurement :

There are different methods of taking body measurements. One looks beautiful if the garment are well fitted to the curves of the body. The measurements of the curves, length, breadth etc. should be taken scientifically to make garments with accurate measurements. Some rules of taking body measurements are given below -

A. Round measurements -

i. **Neck** - The neck measurement is taken around the base of the neck

ii. **Arm** - The arm measurement is taken at the thickest part of the arm between shoulder and elbow with the arm bent.

iii. **Bust**- The measuring tape is passed through the armpits and place

the tape round the fullest part of the bust.

iv. Waist- The waist measurement is taken at the smallest part of the waist. The measuring tape should not be hold too tight or too loose.

v. Hip - Hip measurement is taken round the widest part of the hips, about seven inches below the waist.

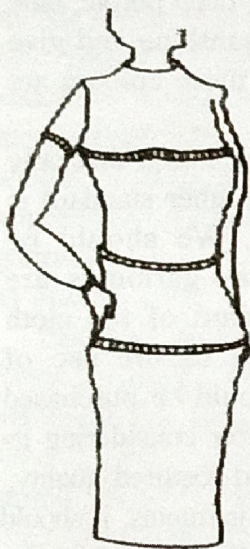


Fig-1

B. Width:-

i. Back measurements - Measurements of width of back is taken across the shoulder blades at 4-5 inches below the neck.

ii. Shoulder measurements - Measurements of shoulder is taken from one armscye to another at the top of the shoulder

across the base of the neck.

iii. Front chest - It is measured from the point where the arm leaves the body across the chest to the other side.

C. Length:

Measurements of different lengths are taken as under-

i. From the highest point of shoulder, over the bust, to the waist.

ii. From the highest point of shoulder to the bust point.

iii. From the arm hole to the wrist.

iv. From the arm pit to the waist.

D. Sleeve measurements.

i. While taking sleeve measurements, the hands should be kept on waist, as shown in the figure. Measurements are taken from the lowest point of shoulder line to the elbow, wrist or to a point as may be desired.

ii. The elbow and the wrist should be measured around them

E. Leg measurements :-

i. The measurement is taken loosely around the ankle for pants, pyjamas, churidars etc.

ii. For correct measurement of pant, churidar etc. round measurement is taken

around the lower part of the leg near knee for the width of that part.

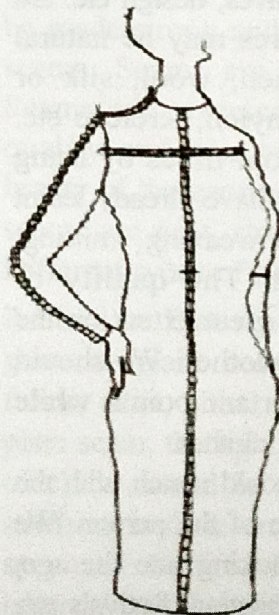


Fig-2

These methods of measurements play an important role in buying material for our garments from market. The amount of clothes to be purchased is

calculated from the measurements, fashion or style, length of the garments, looseness, folds, seam allowances etc. Therefore if the methods of taking measurements are not correct, everything might go wrong.

15.2. Quality of Garments and Good workmanship.

What are the points do you consider while purchasing your garments from the market? Clothes are of different types, characteristic and qualities. Therefore we should have proper knowledge about the characteristics of the fabric before buying them. The quality of clothes mainly depends on their fibres. Depending on the types of fibres, the colour, thickness, weaves, design etc. are determined. The fibres may be natural such as cotton, linen, wool, silk or artificial, as rayon, nylon, terelene etc. Clothes are made from fibres by using various methods, You have already learnt about the methods of weaving, knitting, felting, netting etc. The quality of garments depends to great extent on the methods of making clothes. We should consider some important points while judging the quality of clothes.

i) The garments should match with the personality and figure of the person. We should buy clothes looking into the age, climate, need, social function, festivals etc. The colour of garments should be

selected keeping the climate in consideration because colour influences the quality of clothes. The light colours such as white, pink, light blue, yellow etc. radiate sunrays and heat and give cool feelings. So during summer, garments of these colours give us comfort. On the other hand dark colours like black, red, orange, deep purple, blue etc. absorb heat and sunshine and give us warm feeling. So these colours are useful during winter.

ii) The general impression that only costly clothes are of higher standard is not always correct. We should be economical so far as garments are concerned. The standard of the cloth should be according to the use of clothes. Garments should be purchased at appropriate price after considering its standard, durability and required quality.

iii) While selecting garments, it should be kept in mind that they are attractive and should feel good to touch. The clothes should be soft, smooth, rough or thick according to the quality of fabric.

iv) While considering the quality of clothes it should also be kept in mind that the garments match the person. The colour of the clothes should be according to the complexion and figure of the person.

v) The durability of the garments depends on the fabric used for the purpose and its thread, fibre, weaving

methods etc. So while purchasing clothes we should see how strong and workable they are.

In clothing construction, the workmanship and sewing works should be good and without defect. So before buying garments all these aspects should be thoroughly examined. Workmanship means seams, fasteners, hemming, collar, lace, piping etc. All these workmanship should be strong and scientific to make the garments stronger and permanent. We should consider the following points for application of good workmanship in garments.

a) Fabric :

The basic item of garment making is fabric or cloth. This fabric should be suitable to the design, climate, age of the person and the occasion he would attend. Now a days various types of fabric are found in the market. To select right kind of fabric for the garments, one should know the properties and specific characters of various types of fabric.

b) Drape :

The garments which fit into our body and we feel comfortable after wearing the garment that is considered as drape. Some clothes are difficult to manage and are not comfortable on wearing. For example heavy garments made of tweed, velvet, corduroy etc. are not comfortable on wearing. On the otherhand garments made of voil, silk,

chiffon, crape etc. are soft and drapable.

c) Design :

The design of garments should always be of modern but should have sophistic sense. The design of the garment should make the person look beautiful. It should match with the personality, age, and body structure of the person. Sometimes an expensive garment also may not make the person attractive, if the design is not proper. On the contrary a low cost garment with a beautiful design can make a person more attractive.

d) Seams :

The process of joining different parts of garments is called seam. A piece of cloth is brought into a shape of garment with the help of seams. The garments can be made strong and attractive by using seams. Seams are of different types. Seams are selected according to the quality and use of the clothes. The beauty of the garments is enhanced if the seams are neat, straight and defectless. Different types of seams are -

i) Plain or Flat seam : Generally in all garments plain seam is used for blouse, frock, skirt, shirt, pant etc. To make plain seam, the right sides of two pieces of cloth should be placed together and stitching is done on the edges leaving a space of $1/2''$ to $3/4''$. Now the raw edges should be open flat on the wrong side. The edges may be cut in zigzag

shape by using pinking shears. Now a days a good finish may be given by using interlock machines.

ii) Run and fell seam : It is always done by hand and on the wrong side of the fabric. This seam is very smooth, flat and it almost fit tightly with the garment. Hence it is used for garments of infants, sportswear, underwear and nightwear.

While making this seam, one piece of fabric should be extended by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch than the other, then fold this extended part and fix it with hem stitch. This seam makes the garments stronger and also enhances beauty.

iii) French seam : This seam is generally used in light fabrics like voile, georgette and organdi. It is very smooth and strong, so it is mostly used in children's wear, blouses, frocks, pillow-cover etc. In french seams two pieces of fabrics

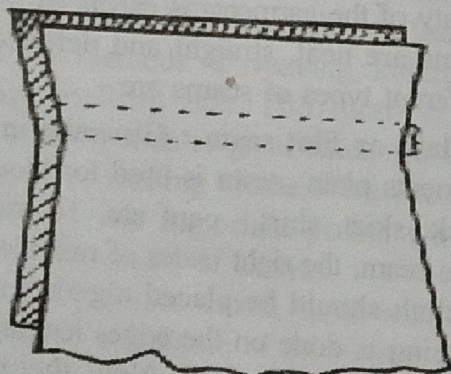


Fig-3
Seam

are taken together with right sides outside and stitching is done by leaving about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Then both the pieces are turned outside and stitching is done by completely covering the raw edges, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on the side. This seam is very strong.

iv) Lapped seam : In some garments, the seam lines are visibly raised to make them attractive and this seam is called lapped seam. If this seam is used to make yoke in the garment, it adds beauty to the garment. Here one piece of the materials is folded and placed over the other piece and stitched. In this method of seam no seamline is visible on the right side.

e) Hemming:

Hem is one of the essential stitches done by hand. Have you noticed the hemming stitches on your dresses? This hem is used to secure and finish the

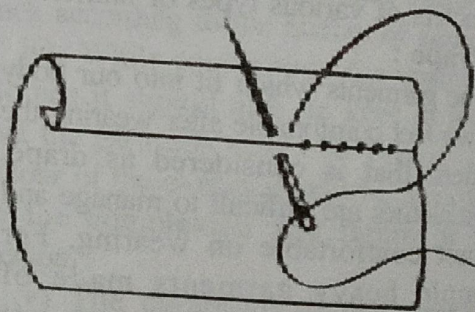


Fig-4
Hemming

edges of garments. Hem stitch prevents the threads from coming out of the raw edges of the garments. When hemming is done on the lower folds of the garments, it becomes heavier and as a result remain in place which adds beauty to the garment.

For making hem stitch, raw edge of the cloth is folded according to the requirement, and slanting stitch is done to fix it to the garment. The needle is inserted through the cloth near the fold and then taken out through the fold, catching only few yarns of the fabric. This way, the stitch is repeated through the edge of the hem. Because of the hemming stitches, the folds are permanently attached to the garment. Stitches should be evenly spaced and neatly done. It should not be prominently visible on the right side, otherwise the beauty of the garment will be lost.

f) Placket :

The opening of the garment like neck-lines, wrist, side seams, front seams are given finishing by providing various types of plackets. A placket makes it easier to wear a garment. The neatly made plackets help in proper fitting of the

garment, when the placket is closed. Plackets should be smooth and beautiful with no pucker. Plackets may be held closed with buttons, hooks, zippers etc. According to the requirement in the garments different types of plackets are used.

One piece placket is used for slit openings where there is no seamline. For this a piece of cloth having six centimeter width and little longer than double the slit length is cut. It is stitched continuously from one end to the other end, tapering towards the midpoint. This is **one piece placket**. Similarly garments having seamline, two piece placket is used. Here placket is attached at the seamline. The right side placket piece is about three centimeters wide and is stitched after it is turned back fully. The left side placket piece is about six centimeter wide and is stitched by folding back half of it. The placket is then held in position by

a double row of stitching at the lower edge. In this way **two piece placket** is made.

Blouses and kurtas have about 20 to 25 centimeters slit opening in the centre of the front side. Two pieces of plackets should be

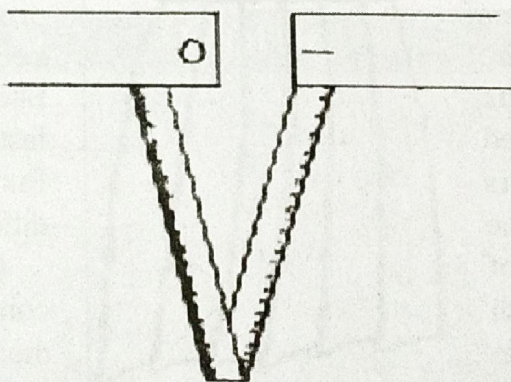


Fig-5
Plackets

made for these type of garments. The placket of lower side should be six centimeters wide and the upper one about eight to nine centimeters wide. The wider piece is attached on the right and the other piece on the left and then both these are folded into half and stitched. The lower edge of the placket is folded into 'V'-shape and the edges are stitched.

In this way different types of plackets are used to enhance the beauty of garments as well as make it comfortable

g) Pleats: Pleats are some of the folds present in our garment. If you look at your garments, you will notice that with the help of some small or big folds, garments are made more beautiful and fitted well in the body. The folds that provide controlled fullness to the fabric and shape it to the form of a garment, so that it fits well into the body and look attractive are called pleats.

Pleats may be single, as a cluster, or around an entire garment section. The amount of fabric required for making pleats is calculated according to the type of pleats, number of pleats, the length and width of pleats etc. Different pleat are made in several ways.

(i) Side or knife pleats: It is a commonly used pleat

in skirt, Frock, children's wear etc. Here, folds are faced in one direction and with equal distance between each pleat. They have one fold line and one placement line.

(ii) Box Pleats: In this pleat, both side of the fabrics are folded back and meet at the centre line of the pleat and stitched. Here, the folds in front side are bigger and in the back it faces each other.

(iii) Inverted pleats: This type of pleats are just reverse of the box pleat and same amount of fabric is required. Here, both the pleats on either side are folded to meet at a centre point. On the back side of the cloth the folds face away from each other.

f) Fasteners : If you look at your dresses you will see that there are some provisions of buttons, press-stud, hooks, loops etc. which keep your dress well fitted in your body. So the provisions which help to keep the garments well fitted in the body are called fasteners. Different types of fasteners are used for different kinds of garments.

(i) Press-stud : A commonly use fasteners in the garments is press-stud. It is widely used in the garments of children and women. This fastener is

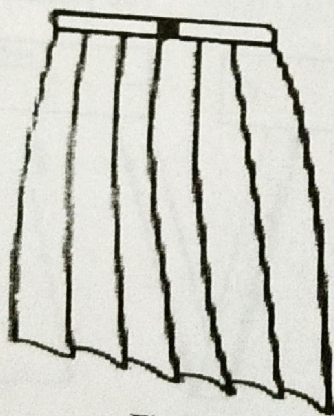


Fig-6
Pleats

pressed one against each other in the two sides of the garment to be fastened together. While sewing, one should be careful that the buttons are not visible outside.

(ii) Button : This is generally used in the garments of men and children. Buttons are used in fronts and cuffs of shirt, coats jackets, pants, sweaters, frocks etc. Buttons of various size and designs matching with garments are used. The button is stitched in lower part of the garment to be fastened and a hole suitable to the size of the button is made on the upper part. A hole $\frac{1}{4}$ inch bigger than the button is made by cutting the cloth at the site and the edges are stitched by blanket stitch. For some decorative buttons, loops are made by threads.

iii) Hook : In some of our garments, some strong fasteners are used to keep the garment tight fitted to the body. This

type of fasteners which are used in the garments of men, women and children is called hook. According to the requirement, hooks of various sizes are used. Small hooks are used on the backs of frock and blouse of women. The hook is fixed on the inner side of the upper part and a hole is made on the lower part to fasten the hook. This is called hook and eye. In some cases a loop of thread is made to fasten the hook. Similarly in skirt, pant etc. more pressure is exerted on the waist. So bigger hooks with suitable bare bar is stitched. This type of fasteners are called hook and bar.

Thus, we have learnt that while selecting our garments we should give proper importance to the points that we have discussed. Then only we will be able to select good garments which will be comfortable, durable and will give, satisfaction.

SUMMARY

- Many factors should be considered while selecting garments.
- We should have proper knowledge of taking measurements before going to purchase garments.
- There are different methods of taking body measurements for garments.
- Several important factors should be considered while considering the quality of garments.
- The workmanship of garments should be strong and scientific.
- The fabric, drape, design, seam, placket, pleat and fastener must be proper to have good workmanship of garments.

QUESTIONS**1. Very Short Answer question :**

- a. What do the garments reflect ?
- b. What percent of the income should be spent on garments ?
- c. What is seam ?
- d. What is fastener ?

2. Short Answer question :

- a. What are the importance of selection of garments ?
- b. What do you mean by pleat ?
- c. What is the meaning of Drape ?

3. Long Answer question :

- a. Write about the points to be considered while taking body measurements ?
- b. Write about the seams used in garments
- c. What is placket? Write about different types of plackets.
- d. What are the points should we look into while considering the quality of garments ?